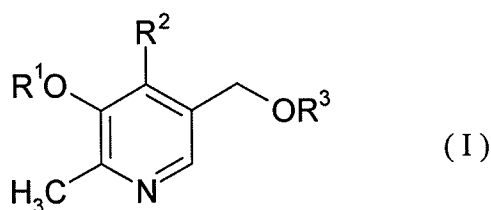


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

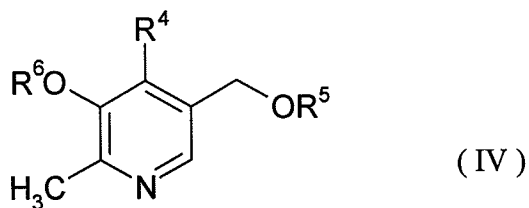
1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein R^1 represents a ~~phosphate group~~ or a cyclic phosphate group bound to R^2 ; R^2 represents $-CH_2OH$, $-CHO$, $-CH_2NH_2$, $-CH_2$ -amino acid residue, or $-CH_2-OPO_2H$; and R^3 represents hydrogen atom, or $-PO_3H_2$.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, which is ~~selected from the group consisting of pyridoxine 3-phosphate, pyridoxine 3,4'-cyclic phosphate, and N-(4-pyridoxylmethylene)-L-serine 3-phosphate~~, or a salt thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (IV) or a salt thereof:

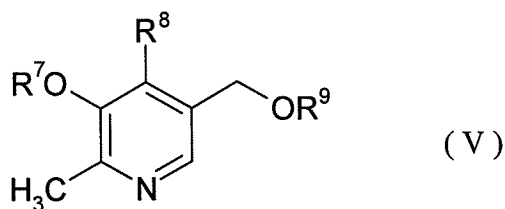


wherein R^4 represents $-CH_2OH$, $-CHO$, or $-CH_2NH_2$, or represents $-CH_2OH$, $-CHO$, or $-CH_2NH_2$ protected with a protective group; R^5 represents hydrogen atom, a protective

group of hydroxyl group, a phosphate group, or a protected phosphate group; and R^6 a cyclic phosphate group bound to R^4 which may have a protective group.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A composition for a cosmetic, a medicament, a foodstuff, and/or a feed comprising a compound represented by the following general formula (V) or a salt thereof:



wherein R^7 represents ~~a phosphate group, a sulfate group, or a cyclic phosphate group bound to R^8~~ ; R^8 represents $-CH_2OH$, $-CHO$, $-CH_2NH_2$, $-CH_2$ -amino acid residue, or $-CH_2-OPO_2H$; and R^9 represents hydrogen atom, or $-PO_3H_2$.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for stabilizing a vitamin contained in a cosmetic, a medicament, a foodstuff, and/or a feed from thermal decomposition and decomposition initiated by U.V. light by adding a compound represented by the general formula (V) or a salt thereof mentioned in claim 5 to the cosmetic, the medicament, the foodstuff, and/or the feed.

7. (Original) A composition for a cosmetic, a medicament, foodstuff, and/or a feed containing a compound represented by the general formula (V) or a salt thereof mentioned in claim 5 and at least one kind of vitamin, wherein stability of the vitamin is improved.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A composition comprising (A) a compound represented by the general formula (V) according to claim 5, and (B) one or more kinds of substances selected from the group consisting of a whitening agent, an antioxidant, an antiphlogistic,

a circulation accelerator, a cell activation agent, and an ultraviolet absorber, which is used as a whitening agent, an anti-aging agent, and/or an agent for suppressing wrinkle formation by exposure to ultraviolet light.

10. (Original) A whitening agent containing (A) a compound represented by the general formula (V) mentioned in claim 5, and (B) arbutin.